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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Application No. | : | 10/678,044 | Confirmation No. | : 6657 |
| First Named Inventor | : | Tadahiro ISHIZAKA | | |
| Filed | : | October 3, 2003 | | |
| TC/A.U. | : | 1763 | | |
| Examiner | : | Jeffrie R. Lund | | |
| Docket No. | : | 010986.52820US | | |
| Customer No. | : | 23911 | | |
| Title | : | Processing Apparatus | | |

**REPLY**

**Mail Stop RCE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in accompaniment of a Request for Continued Examination and in response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2006.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.